

(*SHGs*), the subsidy is at 50% of the cost of the scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh. There is no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects. Subsidy will be backended.

17. SGSY has a special focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly, the SC/STs would account for at least 50% of the *Swarozgaris*, women for 40% and the disabled for 3%.
18. SGSY is implemented by the DRDAs through the Panchayat Samithis. The process of planning, implementation and monitoring integrates the banks and other financial institutions, the PRIs, NGOs, as well as technical institution in the district. DRDAs are being suitably revamped and strengthened.
19. 15% of the funds under SGSY is set apart at the national level for projects having a for reaching significance and which can also act as indicators of possible alternative strategies to be taken up in conjunction with other departments or semi-government or international organizations. This includes initiatives to be taken in the individual districts or across the districts.
20. funds under the SGSY are shared by Central and State Governments in the ratio of 75 : 25.
21. The central allocation earmarked for the States is distributed in relation to the incidence of poverty in the States. However, additional parameters like absorption capacity and special requirement will also be taken into consideration during the course of the year.

Mode of functioning of Panchayats

4102. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the constitution and grant more autonomy to the States in deciding the mode of functioning of the various tiers of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received request for amendments to Article 243-C of the Constitution from some States; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Amendment of Article 243-C (2) and (5) of the Constitution of India is proposed to vest discretionary powers with the State Legislatures for declaring the Chairpersons of the immediate lower tier Panchayats as members of the next higher tier Panchayats and to determine the manner of election of Chairpersons of Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels.

(c) and (d) A reference in this behalf was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The views of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have since been sought in respect of the Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999.

SGSY in Assam

†4103. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of amount allocated to Assam under 'Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana' during the last three years;

(b) the details of targets fixed by Government during the above mentioned period;

(c) the details of success achieved in this regard; and

(d) the district-wise number of persons in the State who benefited from the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a new self-employment programme under implementation since 1st April, 1999. The Central allocation to Assam under SGSY during 1999-2000 was Rs. 3553.09 lakh. However, the actual central release was Rs. 3606.87 lakh including Rs. 544.47 lakh released towards 1st instalment for implementation of three Special Projects under SGSY in the State.

(b) and (c) Subject to availability of funds, SGSY envisages to cover 30% of the rural poor during next five years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.